

Greater Newark HUD Tenants Coalition

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IN MY OPINION

Now is the time to organize and build strong coalitions and advocacy groups. The recent presidential election brought in a new administration, with a number of uncertainties. President George W. Bush, the son of former President Bush, brings a great deal of concerns to the poor and middle class. We must view all parties with a jaundiced eye. We cannot waiver in our support for our best interest. According to the experts we had a sound economy, (even those of us who are on the bottom of the ladder, might disagree) but in the first 100 days it seems that problems with the economy began. We also witness that the government seems hell bent on tearing down buildings that are structurally sound. There seems to be a feeling that High rise structures are not a viable answer to families with low income. I wonder why they work so well in New York City. The public housing complexes in Manhattan are in much better condition than those in Newark. Why? Stella Wright slated to be demolished (although I must admit, it was in a serious state of disrepair) but when was this decision made? It seems that there were several million dollars spent on the gate that surrounded this property. Why spend this kind of money on property that you intend to demolish. In the case of Hill Manor there was an enormous expenditure before it was torn down. Who makes the plans that are responsible for this wasteful spending? Why is there no thought given or input from the people who are displaced. Why do we always accept the fact that the tenants are blamed for the destruction of the property? Why can't management design a successful tenant selection policy. These are some questions that we must seek answers to. Finally, we must remember that we have work to do. We must organize, we must constantly register ourselves to vote and we must organize our buildings and communities. "No one can ride your back unless its bent."